

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 00203 140703Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
PRS-01 SP-02 MCT-01 /055 W
-----014368 140719Z /12

R 131448Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6901
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 0203

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, PINS, ET
SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN TRADE UNION MARKS FIRST ANNIVERSARY

SUMMARY: ALL ETHIOPIAN TRADE UNION (AETU) FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN GEDLU TEKLE HELD PRESS CONFERENCE JAN 9 TO COMMEMORATE ESTABLISHMENT OF AETU ONE YEAR AGO. GEDLU NOTED AETU HAS LOST TWO CHARMEN AND TREASURER THROUGH ASSASSINATION, BUT THAT CURRENT RED TERROR CAMPAIGN PRODUCING REMARKABLE RESULTS. AETU HAS EVOLVED ALONG MODEL OF TRADE UNIONS IN STATE-CONTROLLED ECONOMIES WHERE WORKERS HAVE LITTLE SAY ABOUT WAGES AND BENEFITS, BUT DO HAVE IMPACT ON WORKING CONDITIONS. AS POLITICAL TOOL OF PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (PMAC), AETU HAS ASSUMED INCREASINGLY GREATER RESPONSIBILITY FOR POLITICIZING WORKERS AND OTHER MASS ORGANIZATION MEMBERS. THIS IN TURN HAS MADE AETU LEADERS PRIME ASSASSINATION TARGETS OF LEFTIST CIVILIAN OPPONENTS OF PMAC. END SUMMARY.

1. CONCLUDING TURBULENT YEAR FOR AETU WHICH SAW ASSASSINATION OF ORIGINAL CHAIRMAN TWEODROS BEKELE (FEB) AND HIS REPLACEMENT TEMESGEN MADEBO (SEPT), AS WELL AS TREASURER KEBEDE GEBRE-MIKAEL (NOV). AETU FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN GEDLU TEKLE ASSERTED AETU HAD EMERGED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ADDIS 00203 140703Z

POWERFUL FROM THE CONTINUING STRUGGLE. THOUSANDS OF WORKERS NOW AMONG VANGUARD DEFENDING ETHIOPIA'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AGAINST SOMALIA. WORKERS ALSO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN RED TERROR CAMPAIGN, WHICH GEDLU STATED PRODUCING REMARKABLE RESULTS, BUT WHICH SHOULD BE STEPPED-UP UNTIL ALL COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY AND ANTI-UNITY FORCES COMPLETELY WIPE OUT.

2. SO THAT AETU CAN PAVE WAY FOR CREATION OF WORKERS' PARTY, IT IS MAINTAINING LINKS WITH OTHER MASS ORGANIZATIONS, LIKE FARMERS' AND URBAN DWELLERS' (KEBELE) ASSOCIATIONS WHICH OPERATE THROUGHOUT COUNTRY. INTERNATIONALLY, WORKERS IN "PROGRESSIVE" COUNTRIES HAVE BUILT STRONG LINKS WITH THEIR ETHIOPIAN CLASS ALLIES AND ARE EXTENDING POLITICAL, MORAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT TO AETU. AETU WILL CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN THESE TIES.

3. COMMENT: ALMOST SINCE ITS INCEPTION AETU HAS LIMITED ITS ACTIVITIES, EITHER FORCIBLY OR BY CHOICE, TO POLITICIZATION OF WORKERS AND NON-WAGE DEMANDS. BECAUSE OF THE FLUID POLITICAL SITUATION AMONG THE CIVILIANS, AETU HAS BEEN INDOCTRINATING, AETU HAS MOVED FROM ONE PMAC-SANCTIONED MARXIST-LENINIST FACTION TO ANOTHER WITHOUT MAINTAINING ANY REAL INDEPENDENCE. RATHER THAN BE AN ADVOCATE OF WORKER DEMANDS, AETU HAS BECOME A POLITICAL AND SOMETIMES SECURITY TOOL OF THE PMAC. IT APPEARS THAT PMAC WILL USE AETU TO FILL GAPES IN CADRE FORMATION PROGRAM LEFT SINCE JULY '77 BY DECLINE OF ALL ETHIOPIAN SOCIALIST MOVEMENT (AESM OR ME'I SONE). HOEVER, AETU'S LACK OF TRAINED IDEOLOGUES AND HIGHLY EDUCATED MANAGERS WILL ONLY CONTRIBUTE TO ITS DEPENDNCE ON PMAC SUP-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ADDIS 00203 140703Z

POR FOR ITS CONTINUED SURVIVAL. AS A CIVILIAN ARM OF THE PMAC, ALL AETU LEADERS ARE PROSPECTIVE ASSASSINATION TARGETS.
MATHERON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ADDIS00203
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780021-1003
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780167/aaaaceiz.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: af2cfce3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3780011
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ETHIOPIAN TRADE UNION MARKS FIRST ANNIVERSARY SUMMARY: ALL ETHIOPIAN TRADE UNION (AETU) FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN GEDLU TEKLE HELD PRESS CONFERENCE JAN 9 TO COM
TAGS: ELAB, PINS, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/af2cfce3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014